

REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2009

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * Mrs M Jarrett

Councillors * N Eve
Mrs B Green
* Mrs A Hayward
* P Kemp
* R Kipps (ex officio)
* G Liley
* S Watkins
* Mrs J Worrall (ex officio)

*Denotes members present

Also in attendance Cllr M Green and Cllr Mrs M Hampton
There were three members of the public present.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There were none.

09/46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs B Green.

09/47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

09/48 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting dated 15th September 2009 be approved as a true and correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

09/49 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

09/40 Grazing on the Common

The matter had been covered at Full Council and the Committee noted the resolution taken at that meeting.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To in principal agree to the re-introduction of grazing on to Chorleywood Common

Proposed by Cllr Worrall, seconded by Cllr Liley with all in favour

09/41 TREE WORK AT GROVE WOOD

The meeting noted the enquiries and letters received from Grove Wood expressing concern at work being undertaken at Grove Wood. In response the Council had sent a letter to all Grove Wood residents explaining what work was planned under the Management Plan and advising that a further opinion was being sought on the work recommended by Three Rivers District Council to address the 2 conflicting opinions. Cllr Jarrett reminded the committee of the background to the establishment of the Management Plan and advised that in the New Year the Council would be looking at the updating of this plan. Discussion on correspondence received prompted consideration of ways of better communication with residents, responsibility for this lying with the Open Spaces Committee. It was confirmed that the current Grove Wood Management Plan was available in the Parish Council Office

09/50 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 09/10

A recent visit to Christchurch Cemetery following the Remembrance Sunday service by Cllrs Worrall and Kipps prompted discussion on the maintenance of Christchurch Cemetery which is under contract by the Church to external contractors and therefore not down to the Parish Rangers to maintain. It is understood that the school has concerns about the maintenance along its boundary and these would need to be raised with the Church. The boundary wall was reported to be under investigation by John Beech.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the report

ALLOTMENTS

09/51 OCCUPATION

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the occupation of the allotments.

09/52 MATTERS ARISING FROM ALLOTMENTS MEETING

The Allotments Users meeting had suggested a number of areas in each of the allotment sites that could be turned into new allotment plots and the Committee considered what costs would be involved. There had been considerable discussion on the subject of compost bins for the allotments which would be investigated by the Allotments Administrator. The subject of sheds being allowed on the allotments had been raised and the Committee confirmed no change to the resolution that sheds would not be allowed although tool boxes were permitted. The possibility of Bee keeping on the allotments would also be investigated by the Allotments Administrator.

COMMON & GROVEWOOD

09/53 REPORT OF THE PARISH RANGER

Members complimented Chris Watts on the standard set by his clear and concise report. Cllr Kipps requested that the Parish Rangers look at the exit to the permissive parking area on the Common at Christchurch where remedial work may be required.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report.

09/54 PERMISSION TO OPERATE A COFFEE CONCESSION ON CHORLEYWOOD COMMON

Rubbish from this venture being scattered across the Common was a major concern to the Committee.

The Committee
RESOLVED
The Council refuses this application to operate a coffee concession on Chorleywood Common

Proposed by Cllr Hayward, seconded by Cllr Liley and agreed by a majority with one abstention.

09/55 GRAZING ON THE COMMON

The committee noted the costs detailed in the paper and the funding possibilities from the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and Natural England. Responsibility for this Committee was to budget for the immediate future only ie Larks Meadow noting the overwhelming positive response to the grazing questionnaire.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the paper for information

LAWN CEMETERY

09/56 OCCUPATION

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the occupation of the Lawn Cemetery.

PARISH PATHS

09/57 FOOTPATH FROM COMMONROAD TO STATION APPROACH

The Committee
RESOLVED

That TRDC are advised of the Parish Council’s view that public footpaths should not be named only numbered.

This was proposed by Cllr Eve, seconded by Cllr Liley and unanimously approved.

GENERAL

09/58 CYCLE PATH PHASE TWO – GREEN STREET

The Committee
RESOLVED

To refer this to the Planning Committee as a highways issue.

This was proposed from the Chair with all in favour.

09/45 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the meeting having commenced at 8.00 pm closed at 9.17 pm.

These minutes have been checked signed by the Chairman

Signed Date

These minutes were agreed as a true and correct record at the Open Spaces meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Signed..... Date.....